

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1-12 (canceled).

13. (currently amended): ~~A composition~~ An agent for a clinical laboratory test comprising hemoglobin₁ ~~and a sulfur containing compound₁ as a stabilizing agent in an amount sufficient for stabilizing the hemoglobin~~ and a chelating agent.

14. (currently amended): The ~~composition~~ agent of claim 13 ~~in the form of a solution which is lyophilized agent~~.

15. (currently amended): The ~~composition according to~~ agent of claim 13, wherein said sulfur containing compound ~~is a sulfur containing compound having SH~~ has a thiol group.

16. (canceled).

17. (currently amended): The ~~composition according to~~ agent of claim 13, wherein said sulfur containing compound is at least one compound selected from the group consisting of cysteine, methionine, cystine, thiobenzoic acid, thioglycol acid, 1-thioglycelin, thiodiglycol, mercaptoethanol, glutathione, thioglycerol, ~~or a compound and the family and derivatives thereof~~.

18. (canceled).

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19. (currently amended): The ~~composition of according to agent of~~ claim 13, wherein said sulfur containing compound is selected from the group consisting of cysteine and a derivative of cysteine ~~or a compound in the family thereof~~.

20. (canceled).

21. (currently amended): The ~~composition according to agent of~~ claim 13, wherein said sulfur containing compound is present ~~is added~~ in an amount of 0.1 to ~~0.0001~~ 0.00001 parts by weight per one part by weight of the hemoglobin.

22. (canceled).

23. (currently amended): The agent of ~~composition according to~~ claim 13, wherein said hemoglobin is glycated hemoglobin.

24. (canceled).

Please add the following new claims 25-38.

25. (new): The agent of claim 13 is a frozen agent.

26. (new): The agent of claim 13 is a liquid agent

27. (new): An agent for clinical laboratory test comprising hemoglobin, a sulfur containing compound, and a saccharide.

28. (new): The agent of claim 27 wherein said saccharide is at least one compound selected from the group consisting of monosaccharide, disaccharide and polysacchraide.

29. (new): The agent of claim 27 wherein said saccharide is at least one compound selected from consisting of glycerol, sucrose, glucose, maltose, inositol, fructose, glucitol, glucono- δ -lactone, trehalose, maltitol, raffinose and mannitol.

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30. (new): The agent of claim 27 is a lyophilized agent.
31. (new): The agent of claim 27, wherein said sulfur containing compound has a thiol group.
32. (new): The agent of claim 27, wherein said sulfur containing compound is at least one compound selected from the group consisting of cysteine, methionine, cystine, thiobenzoic acid, thioglycol acid, 1-thioglycerin, thiodiglycol, mercaptoethanol, glutathione, thioglycerol and derivatives thereof.
33. (new): The agent of claim 27, wherein said sulfur containing compound is selected from the group consisting of cysteine and a derivative of cysteine.
34. (new): The agent of claim 27, wherein said sulfur containing compound present in an amount of 0.01 to 0.00001 parts by weight per one part by weight of the hemoglobin.
35. (new): The agent of claim 27, wherein said hemoglobin is glycated hemoglobin.
36. (new): The agent of claim 27 is a frozen agent.
37. (new): The agent of claim 27 is a liquid agent.
38. (new): The agent of claim 27, further comprising a chelating agent.